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THE WRONG CLUE.

A Detective Story.

BY MARLTON DOWNING.

Author of "The Wizard of the Mountain," "Outa and et which he threw toward his com- When Goodwin dispatched Herthe Cubans," etc.

doesn't "inson" with the "Wilk" prefixed, make Wilkinson."

"Why, of course it does." "Then so far, so good," went on Goodwin, with a complacency that was exasperating to the official. 'And 'here is something else,' placing the other part of the envelope in the detective's hand.

"It's a broken seal," ejaculated abruptly. the man, in bewildered astonish-

"Just so," returned the report-

At that moment the trio were joined by the lieutnant.

"Look here, look here," shout ed Jewett. "See what we've got hand side of the street. on to," holding out the damaging bits of evidence.

"What the reporter got on to"was the quiet reply.

"Makes no difference. I knew that Goodwin was working with me on anything of any account. You must let me have three cr four men right away, and we'll look the murderer up before twelve

"Wait a moment, wait a moment." returned Goodwin quickly.

"Do not forget that a little of this belongs to me. I know right where we can put our hands on the man in whose possession these pieces of paper were found, but it Physician and Surgeon. again, I think it probable we may idence before the arrest is made. What say you, lieutenant?"

> "It strikes me," was the reply, hands on this person it is your ing neighbor. duty as a citizen to inform the police, and allow them to secure the hours," whispered Dan proudly. prisoner at once, so that no op- 'But I judge it has paid." portunity may be permitted for him to escape."

> "There is not the slightest possiblity of the man's getting away." replied the reporter. "We are his eye to the perfortions, and exprepared to take you where he is perienced as he was, he almost rewithin half-an-hours time, or per- vealed their presence by an unhaps less. But I do not want him garded exclamation of astonisharrested, if it can be avoided, un- ment at what he saw. til we obtain further, and perhaps more criminating evidence, which I am confident the man, himself, will furnish if we go about the

matter properly." And Goodwin proceeded to make

known his plans to the officers. "It may do no harm to act as you suggest," replied the lieutenant, only half convinced. "But I am for dropping down on him at once. However, as you have succeeded in ferreting out the criminal, some regard is due your proposal. So, Jewett, you'd better go along, but on no account allow the man to slip through your fing-

"Oh, have no fears for me, lieutenant. If I once set eyes on the man he's got to come."

"Very well," answered Goodwin. "Let us be moving."

"A few paces from the stationhouse the three men were joined by Lynch, and it was with some sur prise that the detective recognized his former prisoner.

"Hul'oa, Dan, what are you do ing here!" he asked brusquely. "The reporter will tell you,"

was the reply. "Yes, Jewett," said Goodwin, I will tell you. It is to him that is due nearly all the credit for un-

ravelling this mystery. "Humph!" grunted the detec-

"Oh, you may say what you will; nevertheless it is true. Now, Dan lead the way."

"All right, sir. But you must remember when we get to the house leave you money enough to get

"Oh, never mind, just yet, But, you will have to crawl up the stairs and into my room as quiet as mice if you want to hear anything that's going on."

"Oh, leave us alone for that' replied the detective smartly. 'You just show us where to go, that is

When our friends reached Chapman Street, Dan turned the corner

"Hulloa!" whispered the reporter. "I thought it was Pleasant

"No, no, not this time of night. The latch-key with which Lynch was provided admitted the quartette into the house on the right

A dim light was burning in the hall, but no one was about to spy cruel murder of your partner, and moments that she was unable to tails of the mystery of the murupon the movements of the men as they crept noiselessly up the carpeted stairs, to the apartment that had been rented by Dan

was now the leading spirit of the by all the fiends, I'll strangle you bills that still lay upon the floor. party, ignited the gas, but turned where you stand!" down the flame to a low glimmer, whispering as he did so:

lookout."

Opening the door of a spacious chapter of crime." closet, he entered and motioned "This is too much. You shall charge of them. How much is will by no means be necessary to Then he pointed to a square hole retorted Blackburn, springing like turn out a whole squad of police in the plastering some six inches an enraged tiger at his prey. to arrest him. Mr. Bragdon here, square. The laths and mortar on But his threat was never execut- around them and mark the amount self of the crime, made a full and series of tiny pin holes which had grasp of two men. been punctured on purpose, to allow the watches a chance to obtain secured their prisoner. "if you know right where to put a peep into the room of his adjoin-

"That was the labor of many

At that moment a masculine voice was heard on the other side of the paper partition, and the detective, pressing forward, applied

CHAPTER XVI.

THE ARREST.

"There is no use talking, Jennie I'm determined to leave Boston. I've been worried to death ever since-ever slnce-well, you know. About people asking me questions. Can't stop anywhere but what some one'll say, "Ah, there, aren't you afraid to leave your partner alone? Look out, they'll be after you next." I can't stand it any longer. I told the boss how it was to-day. He said he did'nt blame me a bit, and gave me a good recommendation, that'll help me get work with the company in any city in the country."

"But, James, where are you go ing?

"Don't know yet; haven't made up my mind."

"Oh, well, dear, it makes little difference. We can live as happily together in one place as another, even though it was as far away as California."

"We! Why, I can't take you." quickly returned the man.

"Why, what do you mean?" stammered the young woman. "Do you not intend for me to go with "No. Of course not. What

could I do with you tagging round after me?" was the brutal reply. "But what shall I do? What will become of me? What will become of-"

"Very well, let it be so." "Oh, you'll be all right. I'll

along with for awhile. You'll soon ried on in a low tone, and had not fore Blackburn's eyes, "you must pany and Mr. Bragdon, his bonds forget me when I'm out of your been overheard by Blackburn.

wish to God I could!' taking a roll of bills from his pock- his prisoner. panion who was now sobbing hys- bert and Lynch on their errand, he ter. terically. "Take that, and make impressed upon their minds the the best of it. I leave you to-night necessity to return to him after that with you, I'm afraid,' said for good."

the detective as he glanced through house, but to let him think that the Goodwin, will you and Bragdon

ment," questioned the young wo- house. man as she struggled hard to reother amounts which you have re- word cently displayed? James Blackthat the money which now lies at articulate for a while my feet, is stained with his blood.

wish," was the undaunted reply, the prisoner made no attempt to labored on the case. "We can hear as well in the "Why not take the life you have receive them but simply sat stardark. Now then I'll show you my already ruined? It would be a fit- ing vacantly about the room. ing denouncement to a long, long

his companions to do likewise, not live to repeat these words!" there?'1

with you, Jewett, and a man I've his side as well as that of the other ed, for the moment his fingers on the outside." got outside, will be all that is re- room had been most skilfully re- closed about the delicate throat of quired to take the prisoner. Then moved. So neatly had the man the young woman, the door of the leaf from his note-book and step- to the blacksmith's shop and finddone his work that the wall-paper room was burst open, and the ping over to the sewing-machine ing that they would have to wait be able to pick up a little more ev. had not been broken, save by a wretch found himself in the firm

CHAPTER XVII.

THE ACCUSATION.

Before Blackburn could recover wrists, and his last hour of freedom the prisoner, who said,-

as one petrified, gazing at his captors, then sinking into a chair which was near at hand, he faltered in a broken voice:

"What does this mean? Why am I arrested?"

"Well for the present,' replied ble." Jewett, "to prevent you from murdering this young woman, here. But maybe later on we'll be able

"Wait a little, Jewett," inter- refuse to accept bail." oosed Goodwin, who was close at the officer's side. "It's only ten quietly replied Jewett: "but muro'clock, and our agreement was, no matter when we found this man, he was not to be taken to the station until after midnight."

"What are we going to do! Sit here and look at each other for two lily learn,' and the prisoner again hours like a parcel of apes? asked relapsed into a sullen silence. Jewett, a little disconcerted.

ant and have him detail a man to room. search the prisoner's lodgings on Pleasant Street. Something of importance may be found there. You can say that you have your man under surveillance, and will probably bring him in in a short

"Perhaps it will be as well. But feel that I am taking a great risk on myself in not placing my charge under lock and key at the earliest Bragdon. moment possible."

"I do not think so. You and I can keep him as safe here as though he were in the Tombs. tive.

"Forget you, James Blackburn! Dan the necessary instructions. It er associate. What have you to they never for a moment though will not require a written word say for yourself!" "There, there, let us have no from me. The lieutenant will unmore of this nonsense," exclaimed derstand it," said Jewett, and voice scarcely audible. Take me Blackburn rising to his feet, and then turned his whole attention to away. Take me out of this. Any- our friends were again gathered a

they had made a search of the the detective. "Saunders," for it was the name of that poor woman It was this exposure of money room, and by no means to allow was the same officer who had car- You know whom I mean!' under such peculiar circumstances, the officer who would accompany ried the sad news to the widow's which caused the exclamation of them, to go straight to the station home, "you take his other arm. lieve it was." the tity koles in the wall paper. detective would require his assist- kindly look after the young wo- her!' "And do you think for a mo- ance at this, the Chapmau Street man! Move through the streets "Why, certainly, she is still

After the two men had gone, the as possible.' gain her composure, "that I would the reporter essayed to interview touch another penny of your mon- Blackburn, but the man maintained bringing up the rear, the little ey! How do I know by what a dogged silence and could not be party hurried to the station house. street." means you came by it, or by the prevailed upon to utter a single

burn," she continued, her dark more fortunate with the woman. were in a carriage hastening down good, comfortable home besides. eyes flashing fire as she spoke, But with her the cause of silence towards the office of the paper, James Blackburn, I believe, as was her extreme emotion; so over reaching which, the reporter threw heaven is my judge that you, come was the poor creature by the off his coat and seated himself at further utterance of his kindly inyourself played some part in the startling events of the past few his desk to write out the latest detentions.

When Goodwin found that he

"Never mind, Goodwin," observed the detective. "I'll take

"A hundred and fifty dollars."

on which rested a work-basket said; "With your leave, madam," Red Dan and the detective had and took a pin from the cushion

which it contained. or seem to take the slightest no ice he himself boldly took all the enof what he was doing. She sat with her face buried in her handkerchief and sobbed aloud.

It was a long, painful silence from his surprise, the cold steel that ensued, and more than an bands were snapped about his hour elasped ere it was broken by

"Now that I am arrested, why The culprit stood for a moment do you not take me away! I demand to be conducted at once to the station house where I may be able to procure bail before it gets too late."

"I am afraid, young man, that you will find that to be impossi-

"Impossible! I never thought that a simple assault, for as such want you to take a walk with woman there, was a crime of suf-

"No; a simple assault is not,"

der certainly is.' "Murder!" shrieked Blackburn. ·Who is it that accuses me of mur-

"Have patience, you will speed-

It might have been half past "Yes, if nothing better suggests eleven when voices were heard in itself," replied the reporter. But the hall below, and shortly Brag-

> The latter had met the party at the door, and followed them upstairs, much shocked at the events which had come to her knowledge "What success did you meet with?' asked Goodwin.

We found four unbroken pack ages in a trunk, with papers and letters, which went to show that it belonged to Blackburn,' replied

The polieceman then handed the sealed envelopes, mute witnesses against the prisoner, to the detec-

"Now, sir,' exclaimed the latter, This conversation had been car- as he held the damaging proof be. burn was held by the express com- dust on the family Bible.

"You can give your friend and der of Thomas Ellicott, your form- police, and it is safe to say that

"Nothing! nothing!" came a crime. where, to the gallows, if you wish, the home of Mrs. Ellicott, and this for there I shall go sooner or la! time Dan Lynch, no longer Red

"We can scarcely go as far as number. quickly, but make as little scene held by the police as a a witness

And in this order, with Red Dan

Before the heavy grated door of the cell had closed to upon the free the first thing to-morrow Nor was the newspaper-man prisoner, Goodwin and Bragdon morning, and see that she has a dered messenger.

So well had Goodwin calculated, where she was confronted by a "Woman!" exclaimed Black- could elicit no information from that when morning came he found fine-looking, elderly gentleman burn, his face livid with rage, either of the unfortunate people, that his was the only paper that who said in a most deferential Closing the door, Lynch, who have a care to what you say, or he stooped and gathered up the contained the news of the arrest mannerand confession of James Black-After folding them carefully he burn, and he felt fully repaid for to find Mr. Hebert Bragdon, and I "Do so, James; do so if you handed them to Blackburn, but the days and nights that he had learned that he might be here."

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE CONFESSION. The day following his arrest, Blackburn, feeling that there was "Just pin a piece of paper no possible chance to clear him-

free confession. The reporter then tore a blank His horse losing a shoe led him some time he made up his mind then to extract the money from the

He sent Tom Ellicott away with But Jennie did not answer h'm, a package, as has been seen, and velopes but a few, placing them in a leather bag, and left it with a friend, the proprietor of a cigarsupposed it was of no particular and with heartfelt emotion thank-

Returning to the blacksmith-shop the two men waited for the horse to be shod, and then drove out upon the street. When reaching the corner of Washington street and Lovering Piace, the sun had set, and darkness was beginning to

the victim's happy home.

corner of Dover street and the Henry's Drug Store. Avenue, near which locality as has been stated he delivered the last package, first taking the pre- very important before the election. caution to leave the safe open with and very small after the returns one envelope remaining in it, while get in. he dropped another in the gutter near the forward wheel.

He also turned the horse so that why do you not allow Mr. Brag- don, Dan, a police officer, and the no casual observer would obtain a don, and Dan, to go to the lieuten- landlady of the house entered the glimpse into the interior of the carriage. Then followed his brief absence, his return, and the out-

Histestimony implicating Red Dan was suggested wholly by the detective's question, but he was quick to grasp at the straw, and thus followed the arrest of the innocent man.

to suspect the messenger himself, Chessney. and made him keep a watch on the young man's movement, with the success that has been shown.

know that I arrest you for the murman, had completely blinded th he would be guilty of so heinous:

> A few evenings after the arrest Dan, the outcast, was one of the

"By the way, Goodwin, wha "Oh, yes, Jennie Haskell, I be-

"Do you know where to find

for the Grand Jury." "What! Locked up!" "Yes, sir. Down in Charles

"That's a shame. I'll have her Why, I'll-'

But a ring at the bell prevented Grace rose quickly, stepped out into the hall and opened the door,

"Pardon the intrusion. I want

"Certainly, sir. He is here. will you walk in!' and the next moment Herbert's father, the austere banker, was ushered into the little parlor.

As Captain Ben recognized the new comer he sprang to his feet. exclaiming-"Why, Paul! I'm delighted to

see you. Unexpected pleasure, I'm sure. Allow me to introduce my niece, Mrs. Ellicott, and her daughter, Grace. Sit down and join the party. Oh, by the way here's a gentleman I had forgotten, Mr. Frank Goodwin, the newspaper reporter, the young man who has grown famous ay his connection with that-that-case. And this is Mr. Lynch, a sailor, Paul," and with that the little captain sank into a chair almost breathless with enthusiasm, while Herstore on Washington Street, who bert grasped the hand of his father

ed him for his call.

THO END.

Four Big Successes. Having the needed merit to more than make good all the advertising claimed for them, the following four remedies have reached a phenomenal sale. Dr. King's New He turned into the gloomy nar- Discovery, for consumption, colds row thoroughfare, and when about and coughs, each bottle guaranteed half-way to Harrison avenue, he -Electric Bitters, the great remeasked his companion to take the dy for Liver, Stomach and Kidneys, you can only consider the shaking rein a moment. When both hands Bucklen's Arnica Salve, the best to give you a better reason. Come which I gave that foolish young of his partner were thus occupied, in the world, and Dr. King's New the terrible deed was committed; Life Pills, which are a perfect pill. ficient importance for the police to almost within calling distance of All these remedies are guaranteed to do just what is claimed for them Blackburn broke the lanterns and the dealer whose name is atand extinguished the lights him-tached herewith will be glad to tell self, and then drove rapidly to the you more of them. Sold at B. F.

The poor man is made to feel

Clinton Missouri.

A. L Armstrong, and old druggist and a prominent citizen of the enterprising town, says: "I sell some forty different kinds of cough medicines, but have never in my experience sold so much of any one article as I have of Ballard's Horehoun 1 Syrup. All who use it say it is the most perfee remedy for Coughs, Cold, Con sumption, and all diseases of the Throat and Lungs, they have ever tried. 'It is a specific for Croup and It was Dan's bitter feeling Whooping Cough. It will relieve against the one who had testified a cough in one minute. Contains falsely about him that first led him no opiates. Sold by Fout & Me-

The family that has thumbmarks all through Ingersol's "Mis-The high esteem in which Black- takes of Moses," generally has